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RAUNDS   URBAN  
DISTRICT   COUNCIL


-----  
ANNUAL   REPORT

of   the

MEDICAL   OFFICER   OF   HEALTH

A. McINNES, M.B., D.P.H.

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RAUNDS      URBAN      DISTRICT

Chairman, 1959:                      G. Webster, Esq.

Clerk:                      B.M. Killick

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health:                      A. McInnes, M.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector  
and Surveyor:                      G. Whittam, F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.

Area of District:                      6,483 acres

Population:                      4,680

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PARTICULARS of Separate Dwellings, Population, Rateable Value and  
Product of 1d Rate.

		Dwellings	Population		Rateable Value £	Penny Rate £. s. d.		
1956	...	1,616	4,680	31 Mar.	21,528	76.	13.	3.6
				1 Apr.	37,182			
1957	...	1,625	4,660		35,842	144.	19.	7.4
1958	...	1,621	4,650		35,572	136.	6.	0.2
1959	...	1,615	4,680		39,693	139.	12.	3.9

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Mr. Chairman,

A report on the health of the District for the year 1959 is given herewith. In a previous report there was a description of Raunds Urban District, its natural environment and its social make-up. The Urban District is on the fringe of the boot and shoe manufacturing area, represented typically by Rushden, and spills into the agricultural part of the county, represented by Thrapston. Its boundary runs with the agricultural county of Huntingdon. Although preponderantly industrial Raunds has many agricultural interests.

Statistics are given for the four years 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959. For an area as small as Raunds there are bound to be wide fluctuations in statistics from year to year. If it is desired to compare Raunds of 1959 with any previous year the crude rates and not standard rates should be compared.

Public Health Medicine started off just over 50 years ago with the belief that through its system and work lay the hope of improving the physical state of the inhabitants of this country. This hope has, in a measure, been realised, especially through the Housing Acts. Better housing and better wages and the great advances in curative medicine by the discovery of Penicillin and its likes are the chief factors leading to a marked increase of the expectation of life. We are living longer and the effect of this is now upon us. The social amelioration of old age lags far behind the problem associated with a relative increase of the aged in the population. The aged are not as well cared for as they should be. This has come to a country with a good standard of health and of social administration. One can only wonder what is going to happen to the world when the expectation of life of the Asiatic and African is raised to 70 years from the present round about 25.

Birth Rate

The number of births and a series of rates are given below. Up to 1950 only crude Birth Rates could be given, but for 1950 and afterwards a comparability factor has been issued so that standard Birth Rate = crude Birth Rate x comparability factor. For Raunds the comparability factor for 1956 was 1.17, for 1957, 1.16, for 1958, 1.16 and for 1959, 1.16.

Live Births

TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS in Raunds Urban District:-

				1956		1957		1958		1959	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	39	30	35	42	33	24	30	28
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	1	1	4	2	1	1	1
TOTAL	...	...	...	43	31	36	46	35	25	31	29
Illegitimate rate per 1,000 Live Birhs				67.5		61.0		50.0		33.3	
BIRTH RATES per 1,000 of population:-											
Raunds U.D.C. - Crude				15.8		17.6		12.93		12.82	
Standard				18.5		20.41		14.19		14.87	
England and Wales				15.6				16.4		16.5	
Administrative County				16.67		17.03		16.95		16.6	

Still Births

				1956		1957		1958		1959	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	...	...	...	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0



			1956	1957	1958	1959
Rate per 1,000 of Live and Still Births:-						
Raunds Urban District	...	...	0.0	12.0	0.0	32.0
England and Wales	...	...	23.0		21.6	20.7
Administrative County	...	...	18.25	18.8	22.16	19.2

#### Deaths of Children under 1 year

					1956	1957	1958	1959
					M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	1

					1956	1957	1958	1959
Rate per 1,000 of Live Births								
Raunds Urban District	...	...			13.5	38.4	0.0	16.6
England and Wales	...	...			23.8		22.5	22.0
Administrative County	...	...			19.68	22.53	19.75	20.2

#### Deaths of Children under 4 weeks

					M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...		0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...		1	0
TOTAL	...	...	...		1	0

#### Deaths of Children under 1 week

					M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...		0	0
Illegitimate	...	...	...		1	0
TOTAL	...	...	...		1	0

These tables signify that the child who died under 1 year was an illegitimate child of under 1 week of age. This death was of a premature child (35th week) in hospital.

#### Maternal Mortality

				1956	1957	1958	1959
				0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births:-							
Raunds Urban District	...	...		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
England and Wales	...	...		0.56	0.47	0.43	0.38
Administrative County	...	...		0.21	0.20	0.61	0.20

There has been no maternal death since 1935, the date of the inclusion of Starwick in the district.

There have only been 5 notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 25 years. None were notified in 1956, 1957, 1958 or 1959.

#### Death Rate

Below are given the number of deaths and a table of death rates per 1,000 of population. A Comparability Factor has been given so that Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor = Standard Death Rate. The necessity of this factor for the purposes of comparison is due to an unequal distribution of age groups and also, to a lesser degree, of the sexes. For example: Bournemouth and Cheltenham are more likely to have a greater number in the older age groups than say Coventry or Wigan, where most are of the earning ages. Females have a greater expectation of life than males.

A classification of the causes of death is given in tables at the end of the report.

Number of Deaths

					1956	1957	1958	1959
Males	...	...	...	...	30	30	31	30
Females	...	...	...	...	26	22	21	32
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	56	52	52	62

In 1956 there were 24, in 1957, 12, in 1958, 20 and in 1959, 17 inward transfers of persons normally resident in Raunds who died in hospital or while temporarily resident away from home.

Analysis of ages at death were:-

					1956	1957	1958	1959
Over 90	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	0
80 - 90	...	...	...	...	13	12	13	18
70 - 80	...	...	...	...	22	20	20	16
60 - 70	...	...	...	...	12	10	12	14
50 - 60	...	...	...	...	4	4	5	8
40 - 50	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	1
30 - 40	...	...	...	...	0	2	0	1
20 - 30	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1
10 - 20	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
1 - 10	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Under 1	...	...	...	...	1	2	0	1
					56	52	52	60
Percentage of deaths over 70					69.6%	63%	66%	57%

Of the 34 deaths over 70, 13 were males and 21 females.

DEATH RATE:-

Raunds Urban District - Crude	...	...	11.96	11.16	11.1	13.24
Standard	...	...	10.05	9.48	9.5	11.12
England and Wales	...	...	11.7			
Administrative County	...	...	11.24	10.97	11.17	10.77
Comparability Factor 1956		=	0.84			
" " 1957		=	0.85			
" " 1958		=	0.85			
" " 1959		=	0.84			

Cancer

The numbers of deaths for the years of the report are given in the table of causes of death to be found at the end of the report. For 1959 the number is 9 or 14.5% of total deaths.

Cancer of the Lung

This is usually a cancer of the Bronchial tubes. Improved methods of diagnosis have separated this disease from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There is no satisfactory evidence that Lung Cancer is on the increase, nor is there any satisfactory evidence that smokers are more liable to the disease than non-smokers. Lung cancer was the cause of two deaths in 1955, two in 1956, two in 1957, two in 1958 and one in 1959.

The microscopic appearance of cancerous tissue, and after all the microscope is the final arbiter, indicates that the characteristic of the disease is a reversion to the primitive. By primitive is meant the type of tissue seen



in the developing ovum or foetus. Although one cannot deny the possibility of a specific invasive agent as a cause, there is undoubted statistical evidence that old age is a most important factor in causation. Cancer may occur in young people, but this young cancer has its origin in the generative organs. In the old, cancer may develop in any part of the body. Medical science has given us a greater expectation of life and, at the same time, a proportionate increase in the number of deaths from Cancer.

Disease of Heart and Blood Vessels

In 1959 there were 35 deaths from this cause and this represents 56.45% of total deaths. The percentage of deaths over 70 years would explain in part measure that Heart Disease is the great killer in Raunds.

Immunisation 1959

<u>Smallpox Vaccination</u>										
	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2 - 4.</u>	<u>5 - 14.</u>	<u>15 or over.</u>	<u>Total</u>				
Primary	22	1	4	2	4	33				
Re-vaccination	-	-	1	-	11	12				

<u>Polio myelitis Vaccination</u>										
<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5 - 9.</u>	<u>10 - 14.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Third inj's</u> <u>0 - 14.</u>	<u>15 or over.</u>	<u>3rd</u>
1	36	18	8	12	54	53	182	504	311	151

<u>Diphtheria Immunisation</u>										
	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5 - 9.</u>	<u>10 - 14.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Booster.</u>	
Diphtheria Immunisation only.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough.	29	2	4	-	-	-	-	35	6	
Total Diphtheria Immunisations.	29	2	4	-	-	-	-	35	6	
Whooping Cough only.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	

<u>Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation</u>									
<u>Age at 31.12.59</u> <u>i.e. Born in year</u>	<u>Under 1.</u> <u>1959</u>	<u>1.</u> <u>1958</u>	<u>2.</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>3.</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>4.</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>5 - 9.</u> <u>1950 -</u> <u>1954</u>	<u>10 - 14.</u> <u>1945 -</u> <u>1949</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Under 15.</u>	
Number Immunised	4	30	43	49	52	214	244	636	

Scarlet Fever

No case was notified.

Erysipelas

3 cases were notified.

Pneumonia

5 cases were notified.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid

There were no notifications.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever

There were no notifications.

Measles

2 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

3 cases were notified.

Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis

There were no notifications.

Food Poisoning

There were no notifications.

Influenza

There were no notifications.

Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)

NOTIFICATIONS	-	1953	...	...	5
		1954	...	...	5
		1955	...	...	Nil
		1956	...	...	2
		1957	...	...	3
		1958	...	...	1
		1959	...	...	Nil
DEATHS	-	1953	...	...	Nil
		1954	...	...	Nil
		1955	...	...	1
		1956	...	...	1
		1957	...	...	Nil
		1958	...	...	1
		1959	...	...	Nil

Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)

There were no notifications from this cause in 1953, 1954, 1955 or 1956; one of glands in 1957 and none in 1958 and 1959. There were no deaths from this cause 1953 to 1959.

The Director of Mass Radiography has kindly given me the following Report -



Mass Radiography Service  
No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board

RAUNDS - FOURTH SURVEY

4th - 7th January, 1960.

Held at Brook Street, Raunds.

Response from Firms:- 82%

**SUMMARY OF WORK**

					Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	...	...	...	...	859	975	1,834
No. recalled for large films	...	...	...	...	23	19	42
No. recalled for clinical examination			...	...	4	6	10
No. referred to chest clinic	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	706	815	1,521
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.			...	...	153	160	313

**RESULTS OF CASES REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC**

Active pulmonary tuberculosis requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
This was a newly discovered case; did not have a positive sputum; had a previous satisfactory M.M.R. examination.							
Presumably inactive pulmonary tuberculosis but requiring occasional supervision	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Pneumonitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
					2	2	4

**RESULTS OF CASES CLINICALLY EXAMINED BY THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR BUT NOT REFERRED TO CHEST CLINIC**

Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Pleural thickening	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Diaphragmatic hernia	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
					2	4	6

**SUMMARY OF NEWLY DISCOVERED SIGNIFICANT CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS FOUND IN THE RAUNDS FOURTH SURVEY**

<u>Groups</u>				No. <u>Examined</u>	Active <u>P.T.B.</u>	Rate per <u>Thousand</u>	Inactive <u>P.T.B.</u>	Rate per <u>Thousand</u>
Boot and Shoe Firms	...	...	...	797	-		-	
Other Firms	...	...	...	452	-		-	
General Public	...	...	...	585	1		1	
TOTAL	...	...	...	1,834	1	.55	1	.55

Tuberculosis - Number on Register

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register during the past seven years was as follows:-

			<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
31st December, 1953	...	...	24	5
31st December, 1954	...	...	29	7
31st December, 1955	...	...	22	5
31st December, 1956	...	...	22	5
31st December, 1957	...	...	24	6
31st December, 1958	...	...	18	4
31st December, 1959	...	...	15	4

### Water Supply

Raunds gets its water from wells sunk in the gravel of the Eene Valley. The position of the wells is a compromise between the two considerations of sufficiency of supply and prevention of contamination by flooding of the valley in winter. Before 1941 Raunds supply was not treated in any way, now the water is both filtered and chlorinated. It should be understood that treatment makes the water safer under varying conditions. Chlorine can be used in a range of 0.1 to 5.0 parts per million without unduly tasting the water provided the larger doses are necessary by reason of flooding. Over many years chemical and bacteriological analyses have been remarkably uniform and indicate a water of high purity.

These are typical analyses:-

Sample of Water labelled "Tap Water, Cartrill Street, Raunds", received on the 23rd March, 1959 from Dr. A. McInnes, Raunds Urban District Council.

Physical Characters	...	...	Good
Reaction	...	...	pH 7.1

### The sample contained:-

### Parts per 100,000

Chloride	...	...	...	...	10.3
Ammonia (Free and Saline)	...	...	...	...	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid)	...	...	...	...	0.0050
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs at 37°C	...	...	...	...	0.0426
Nitrates (expressed as Nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	0.40
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	absent†
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	absent
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	42.2
Fluorine	...	...	...	...	0.015 (or 0.15 pp m)

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.

Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 37°C = nil

Number of microorganisms per ml developing at 21°C = nil

### MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT

None.

### I N F E R E N C E

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

S. GREENBURGH.

Public Analyst.

8th April, 1959.

N.B. The estimation of Fluorine was made by the distillation method as recommended by the Government Chemist. S.G.



Sample of water labelled "Tap Water, Cartrill Street", received on the 19th August, 1959 from Dr. A. McInnes, Medical Officer of Health, Raunds Urban District Council.

Physical Characters	...	....	Very slight deposit, otherwise good.
Reaction	...	...	pH 7.1

The sample contained:-

Parts per 100,000

Chloride	...	...	...	...	8.45
Ammonia (free & saline)	...	...	...	...	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	...	...	...	...	0.0008
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C	...	...	...	...	0.0474
Nitrate (as N)	...	...	...	...	0.40
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	absent
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	absent
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	42.3

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls.  
 No. of microorganisms per mil at 37°C = nil  
 No. of microorganisms per mil at 21°C = nil

#### MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT

Mineral matter and organic debris.

#### I N F E R E N C E

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

S. GREENBURGH

Public Analyst.

24th August, 1959.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken by the Council under Section 47.

A. MCINNES

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL TABLES 1956-59

Table No. 1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	1956			1957			1958			1959		
	Ttl	M	F	Ttl	M	F	Ttl	M	F	Ttl	M	F
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
2 Tuberculosis, other ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Meningeal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	1
11 " " Bronchus	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	1	0
12 " " Breast	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 " " Uterus	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	7	4	3	4	3	1	5	1	4	6	3	3
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Diabetes ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
17 Vascular lesions, nervous system	7	2	5	4	1	3	4	1	3	6	2	4
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	11	7	4	9	6	3	10	9	1	15	7	8
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	2
20 Other Heart Disease ...	4	2	2	6	3	3	5	1	4	7	2	5
21 Other Circulatory Disease ...	4	3	1	2	0	2	5	5	0	4	0	4
22 Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Pneumonia ...	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
24 Bronchitis ...	2	2	0	4	4	0	4	2	2	2	2	0
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory system ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	2	2	0
27 Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Congenital malformations ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Other defined and ill defined disease ...	9	5	4	8	2	6	6	3	3	8	3	5
33 Motor Vehicle accidents ...	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
34 All other accidents ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
35 Suicide ...	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 Homicide and Operations of War	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
 TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	 56	 30	 26	 52	 30	 22	 52	 31	 21	 62	 30	 32







PUBLIC    HEALTH    INSPECTOR'S    REPORT

At the end of 1958 a summary of the action taken by the Council under the 'Slum Clearance' Acts showed that 326 unfit houses had been dealt with, 176 in Clearance Areas and 160 as individually unfit.

Action had been completed in respect of:-

178 houses which had been demolished.  
35 houses which had been closed.  
66 houses which had been made fit.

Action had not been completed in respect of:-

14 houses vacant and pending demolition.  
28 houses occupied, but scheduled for demolition.  
5 houses occupied, but scheduled for closing.

During the year of report action was taken in respect of a further ten houses as follows:-

Individual Unfit Houses:-

Three houses, Nos. 39, 41 and 43 Grove Street, Raunds.  
3 houses demolished.

Three houses, Nos. 4, 6 and 8 Thorpe Street, Raunds.  
3 houses demolished.

One house, Stanwick Mill Cottage, Stanwick.  
1 house closed.

One house, No. 29 Harcourt Street, Raunds.  
1 house closed.

One house, No. 9 Blott's Gardens, Raunds.  
1 house demolished.

One house, No. 69 Brook Street, Raunds.  
1 house closed.

Also during the year, two houses, No. 54 Thorpe Street, Raunds and No. 23 West Street, Stanwick, included in previous Clearance Areas became vacant and were closed pending demolition so that at the end of 1959 the position with regard to action taken to deal with unfit houses could be summarised as follows:-

Action completed:-

185 houses had been demolished.  
38 houses had been closed.  
66 houses had been made fit.

Action not completed:-

16 houses were vacant pending demolition.  
26 houses were occupied, but scheduled for demolition.  
5 houses were occupied, but scheduled for closing.

Of these 336 houses, 176 had been dealt with in Clearance Areas and 160 as individual unfit houses.

146 day to day inspections of houses were made in addition to those reported upon above. No other statutory action was taken but informal representations were made in respect of 44 houses, 23 being concerned with



structural defects, 2 with drains, 1 with unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation and 18 with various minor defects. One house in Newtown Road was thoroughly reconditioned on an informal representation intended, had it been ignored, to lead to a report suggesting a 'time and place' notice and action to deal with the house as individually unfit.

### New Housing

The Council did not build any houses during the year of report, but plans were approved and, towards the end of the year, tenders were invited for four old peoples' dwellings, of the bed-sitting room type, to be erected on a site in Manor Street.

The Council were in negotiation during the year with the County Council for the purchase of the redundant premises known as The Delves, Marshalls Road, Raunds, formerly used as a Children's Home. The intention is to convert the two large buildings into eight separate dwellings and to use the land attached as a future housing site.

Twenty six houses were erected in the district by private enterprise.

### Improvement Grants

The Council operate the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, relating to improvement grants and made nine grants during the year, totalling £708. Eight were for straightforward conversions of spare rooms into bathrooms with the normal installations of sanitary fittings and hot water apparatus. The other grant included, in addition to the bathroom, work on the insertion of a damp proof course to deal with rising damp.

### Modernisation of Council Houses

It was decided in principle during the year to modernise all the Council's 212 pre-war houses by equipping them with hot-water systems, wash-basins and indoor water closets. As a pilot scheme to discover costs and techniques the installations were carried out in the six 1919 Act houses at Raunds Road, Stanwick, Sadia electric heaters being used to provide the hot water. The work was done by direct labour and the results, including the reasonableness of rent increases, were such as to justify the scheme being applied to the remainder of the houses, which work is now proceeding.

### Water Supply

In common with almost every other part of the country 1959 was a difficult year for the district so far as water supplies were concerned. The extraordinary dry weather reduced the yield of the wells to such an extent that it became literally a matter of scraping the bottom of the barrel to extract every drop of water possible. Restrictions which prohibited the use of town's water for watering gardens, washing cars and swilling yards were put into force, night tests on the distribution system and continuous checks on water services to reduce wastage by leakages and careless usage were kept up and there were constant appeals for economy to water consumers. These measures appeared to have some success for apart from a few nights at the height of the crisis when the mains were turned off in order to reduce any loss on the system to the absolute minimum and to conserve a little in the reservoir for fire emergencies, a continuous supply was given.

The minimum yield of the wells was established at about 215,000 gallons a day, about 30,000 gallons less than the average consumption including the bulk supply to the St. Neots R.D.C., and recourse had to be made to the pumping trench sunk into the gravels in land adjacent to the Waterworks as an emergency measure by the U.S. Air Force in 1941. Water was taken from the trench, by permission of the owner and tenant of the land, to make up the deficiency between the yield of the wells and the consumption



demand, by a portable pumping plant discharging through an overland main into one of the wells for repumping through the filtration and chlorination plant and then into the distribution system. This continued until permanent relief was obtained by a connection between the distribution main to the Stanwick ward of the district and the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council's service main to their parish of Chelveston which cross at the Red Lion Inn. The supply to Chelveston comes from the Rural District Council's new works at Ringstead where the yield is much more than present requirements. The connection gave Stanwick an ample supply and relieved the Raunds works of a daily demand of between 40,000 and 50,000 gallons which more than closed the margin between supply and demand. The cost of the connection was borne by the St. Neots Rural District Council who saw it as equivalent to an extension of source works which will enable their bulk supply to be maintained and augmented if necessary.

The upward trend in water consumption continued and in 1959 the urban district used 62,624,000 gallons, an increase over 1958 of about 4 million gallons. Trade consumption accounted for 10,200,000 gallons and the difference of 52,424,000 gallons can be attributed to domestic usage plus a little wastage. These figures show an average daily consumption of 171,600 gallons divided as 143,600 gallons for domestic use and 28,000 gallons for trade requirements. Expressed in gallons per head of population supplied the figures give 37.22 for all purposes made up of 31.16 for domestic consumption and 6.06 for trade use. These figures compare with 29.15 gallons, 23.4 gallons and 5.75 gallons in 1954; 30.22 gallons, 23 gallons and 7.22 gallons in 1955; 31 gallons, 25.6 gallons and 5.4 gallons in 1956; 32.87 gallons, 27.25 gallons and 5.62 gallons in 1957 and 34.84 gallons, 29.26 gallons and 5.58 gallons per head per day respectively in 1958.

In addition to the consumption in the Raunds Urban District some 23,527,000 gallons were supplied during the year through the bulk supply scheme to the St. Neots Rural District Council for consumption in their parishes of Covington, Tilbrook, Kimbolton, Stoneley, Catworth and Stow Longa and in the parish of Hargrave in the area of the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council. This quantity gave an average daily supply of 64,500 gallons against the maximum of 40,000 gallons a day provided for in the agreement under which the bulk supply is afforded.

Out of the 86,151,000 gallons supplied during the year, 81,678,000 gallons came from our own wells and 4,473,000 gallons were purchased from the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council through the cross connection between service and distribution mains at the Red Lion crossroads.

There were no other developments during the year in connexion with water supply either at the source or in the distribution system, except for short extensions of the water mains on private housing estates.

The water mains were tapped 33 times for domestic connections, once for a garage supply and twice for agricultural services. Four extensions of existing services were made for agricultural supplies and there was also an extension of an existing service to supply a new block of lavatories at a factory.

#### Indoor Water Supplies

Informal references to the provisions of the Water Act of 1945 resulted in the provision of sinks with indoor water supplies in place of outside standpipes which were removed at:-

- 3 houses in Newtown Road,
- 1 house in Hill Street,
- 4 houses in Midland Road,
- 1 house in Rotton Row, and
- 1 house in Grove Street.



## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The foul water and storm water sewers throughout the district functioned without significant trouble during the year of report, but there was an occasion after a very heavy storm at the beginning of the year when the main sewer through the town became surcharged for a very brief time and sewage matter escaped from manholes at the junction of Grove Street and Brook Street and at the junction of Wellington Road and Titty Ho. This was cleared manually very quickly and the trouble was soon over, but it did strike a note of warning that the capacity of the main sewerage system is being taxed and it might be wiser to encourage development to the south rather than to the north of The Hall.

The prolonged dry weather did not help sewage disposal at all. Surface water and other sources of infiltration dried up so that there was little if any dilution and sewage arrived at the works much stronger than normal. The tanks were sluggish, sludge tended to be light and the water leaving the settling tanks contained rather more suspended matter than usual. This was particularly noticeable at Stanwick where the final effluent was criticised very severely, but justifiably, by the River Board. The adverse report of the River Board together with knowledge they already had about the inadequacy of these Works caused the Council to take a welcome decision to have an entirely new Works constructed to deal with sewage from the Stanwick area and provision was made in the Rate estimates for the repayment of charges on a loan expected to be raised to cover the cost.

At the Raunds Works the position was of a like nature, but, although they are not as good as one would wish them to be, the Works are rather more efficient and there were no complaints about the final effluent. Improvements are being done regularly at these Works and during the year chambers for new dosing siphons were built and the construction of another percolating filter was well in hand.

## House Refuse Collection

A weekly collection of house refuse is made throughout the district by means of a closed low-loading type of motor vehicle. Refuse collected in this way is disposed of by a modified form of controlled tipping in a large disused limestone quarry on the outskirts of the district purchased by the Council for this purpose some years ago. Trade refuse is allowed to be tipped there by arrangement. The quarry is fairly shallow and has a considerable area and will provide tipping space for many years to come. No complaints about the house refuse collection service were registered during the year.

## Rodent Control

By arrangement with the Wellingborough Urban District Council we use the services of their full-time Rodent Operator regularly, or as we require them, up to the equivalent of three days a month. The Operator carries out surveys as required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, treating any infestation he discovers or is assigned to him. In addition action is taken by the Council's own staff when the Operator is not available. Routine treatments are carried out by the Council's permanent staff employed at the Sewage Disposal Works, at the refuse tip and at other Local Authority properties.

274 properties were inspected during the year, 200 under the survey requirements of the Act, 53 as a result of notifications and 21 incidental to other inspections. Of these inspections, 14 were of Local Authority premises, 254 of domestic properties, 5 of business or industrial premises and 1 of an agricultural property.

There was the usual infestation which occurs at the autumn breeding season at the refuse tip and there was also an infestation earlier in the



year which did not reach quite the same proportions. They were both cleared up by an intensified poisoning campaign using Warfarin and Zinc Phosphide.

Minor infestations were noted at 11 domestic premises, one at a tannery and one at a farm. The industrial and agricultural infestations were referred to the occupiers and were dealt with by them, but those at Local Authority and domestic premises were dealt with by the Rodent Operator, 40 treatments being necessary.

### Factories

There are 32 registered factories in the district, mechanical power being used in 24. There were nine separate building sites to which the sanitary provisions of the Factories Acts applied. These factories were all inspected, but no action was required. An extension of premises was carried out at a local tannery following a fire, and the owners were very co-operative and agreed to provide lavatories in the new yard although their existing accommodation more than satisfies the requirements of the Act.

Lists returned under section 110 of the Act showed that eight factories had outworkers on their books, one factory manufacturing dolls and plastic toys employing about 75% of the total. The lists had 174 names, 63 with local addresses, 111 from neighbouring towns and villages. Reciprocal lists sent in by Public Health Inspectors in adjacent districts showed that 13 local people were doing outwork for factories in their areas.

### Meat and Food

There are three licensed slaughterhouses operating in the district. Slaughtering takes place regularly on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, often on Thursdays and occasionally on Saturdays and Sundays. 210 visits to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were made during the year and carcasses and viscera of 227 beasts, 2 calves, 550 pigs and 915 sheep were seen. The livers of five beasts and one pig were condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

Seven licences for slaughtermen were issued.

Routine inspections were made of food premises and the following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed:-

8 lbs Luncheon Meat (2 tins)  
1½ lbs Beef Loaf (2 tins)  
3¾ lbs Pork (5 tins)  
1 lb Stewed Steak (1 tin)  
5 lbs Pears (3 tins)  
10 lbs Tomatoes  
25 lbs Box of Fish

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district, all sales being of prepacked products from refrigerated containers and for these 24 licences, one more than last year, are in force.

### General

Licences for twenty registered petrol or petroleum mixtures stores were renewed. A new installation for the retail sale of petrol was carried out in the year of report and the work was done to the Council's requirements and the tanks and pipework subjected to air pressure tests.

Three licences were issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of sites for individual caravans. One application for a caravan licence was refused on the grounds of inadequate water supply and unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation. This was a very



unsatisfactory application in other respects, and some difficulty was experienced before the caravan moved away.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953:-

Dealers' Licences: Pasteurised 3  
Sterilised 4

Supplementary Licences: Pasteurised 3

One Pet Shop Licence and two Game Licences were issued.

The district was again relatively free from infectious disease, no fumigations were carried out nor were any disinfestations for house vermin required.

G. WHITTAM

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

